

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13, currently on file, without prejudice.

Please rewrite Claims 3, 7-9, 14, 18-20 and 23 as follows:

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-- 3. (Amended) An apparatus for verifying verbal utterances, said apparatus

comprising:

a target password sentence generator which generates at least one target password sentence;

a.1 an acceptance arrangement which compares text based on a verbal utterance to at least one target password sentence and which accepts or rejects the verbal utterance based on its comparison to the at least one target password sentence;

a decoder which transforms a verbal utterance into decoded text for being compared to the at least one target password sentence in said acceptance arrangement; and

a finite state grammar generator which generates a finite state grammar to be employed by said decoder;

said decoder being adapted to transform a verbal utterance into decoded text via employing the finite state grammar to modify the verbal utterance.--

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-- 7. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said target password sentence generator is adapted to accept prompted text corresponding to at least one password.--

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-- 8. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said target password sentence generator is adapted to automatically generate at least one password as a baseform that is derived from an acoustic enrollment.--

-- 9. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said acceptance arrangement is adapted to derive a match score based on comparing text based on a verbal utterance to the at least one target password sentence and to base acceptance or rejection of the verbal utterance on the match score.--

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-- 14. (Amended) A method of verifying verbal utterances, [further] said method comprising:

generating at least one target password sentence;

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comparing text based on a verbal utterance to at least one target password sentence;

accepting or rejecting the verbal utterance based on its comparison to the at least one target password sentence;

transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text;

said comparing step comprising comparing the decoded text to the at least one
target password sentence; and

generating a finite state grammar;

said transforming step comprising transforming the verbal utterance into decoded
text via employing the finite state grammar to modify the verbal utterance.--

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-- 18. (**Amended**) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of
generating at least one target password sentence comprises accepting prompted text.--

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cont
-- 19. (**Amended**) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of
generating at least one target password sentence comprises automatically generating a
baseform derived from an acoustic enrollment.--

-- 20. (**Amended**) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of
accepting or rejecting comprises deriving a match score based on comparing text based
on the verbal utterance to the at least one target password sentence and to base acceptance
or rejection of the verbal utterance on the match score.--

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A.5
-- 23. (**Amended**) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly
embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps
for verifying verbal utterances, said method comprising:

generating at least one target password sentence;

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comparing text based on a verbal utterance to at least one target password sentence;

accepting or rejecting the verbal utterance based on its comparison to the at least one target password sentence;

transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text;

said comparing step comprising comparing the decoded text to the at least one target password sentence; and

generating a finite state grammar;

said transforming step comprising transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text via employing the finite state grammar to modify the verbal utterance.--

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-23 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 3, 7-9, 14, 18-20, and 23 have been rewritten, while Claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment.